

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-13 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

ACDA-07 /089 W

----- 091520

R 211649Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0577

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

USLO SACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12319

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, CSCE, MBFR, GW

SUBJECT: CSCE/CBM'S: INSTITUTIONALIZED MBFR-CSCE LINK

REF: STATE 166325 DTG 030950Z JUL 76

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1. FOREIGN OFFICE CBM OFFICIAL GESCHER PROVIDED US TODAY WITH A "NON-PAPER" WHICH A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF HAD PREPARED CONCERNING AN INSTITUTIONALIZED LINK BETWEEN CSCE PARTICIPANTS AND THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. GESCHER POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE NON-PAPER CATALOGS THE REASONS FOR NOT INSTITUTIONALIZING SUCH A LINK, IT SUFFERS FROM THE DEFECT THAT THE TACTICAL PROBLEM OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE IN BELGRADE IS NOT ADDRESSED. GESCHER SAID THIS ILLUSTRATED THE NEED FOR SUBSTANTIVE RATHER THAN MERELY PROCEDURAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE ALLIES AT AN EARLY DATE TO CONSIDER SUCH PROBLEMS.

BEGIN TEXT OF FRG PAPER: SUBJECT: CBM: INFORMATION TO CSCE PARTICIPANTS ON MBFR

1. WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR A NEW INITIATIVE OF SOME NEUTRAL AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AT THE MEETING IN BELGRADE, 1977, TO FORMALIZE THE COMMITMENT ON INFORMATION ABOUT MBFR MENTIONED IN THE LAST ALINEA OF PARAGRAPH III, IN THE "DOCUMENT OF CONFIDENCE-BUILDING-MEASURES AND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT."

YUGOSLAVIA HAS INDICATED AN INTEREST IN THIS INITIATIVE.

2. NATO ALLIES HAVE SO FAR RESISTED THIS DEMAND BECAUSE

- A "DROIT DE REGARD" OF THE NEUTRAL AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WOULD RENDER MBFR EVEN MORE COMPLICATED;
- THE CONCENTRATION ON CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE GOAL OF ACHIEVING PARITY OF GROUND FORCES FOR THIS REGION WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH;
- MBFR WOULD LOSE SOME OF ITS CHARACTER OF BEING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TWO ALLIANCES. THIS COULD UNDERMINE THE WESTERN DEMAND FOR COLLECTIVE OBLIGATIONS AND COULD STRENGTHEN THE EASTERN CASE OF CREATING NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.

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WE STILL HOLD THE VIEW THAT THE COMMITMENT TO INFORM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12319

OTHER CSCE PARTICIPANTS ON MBFR CAN BEST BE COMPLIED WITH
BY BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS.

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3. THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE COMMITMENT TO INFORM CSCE PARTICIPANTS ON MBFR WOULD TEND TO TURN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS INTO A PROPAGANDA FORUM AND LESSEN THE CHANCES OF A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. THE MAJORITY OF NEUTRAL CSCE PARTICIPANTS (SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA) HAVE UP TO NOW UNDERSTOOD OUR REASONING AND HAVE BEEN SATISFIED BY THE BILATERAL INFORMATION WE OFFERED.

4. DURING HIS VISIT TO BONN IN MID-JUNE AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH, REFERRING TO THIS QUESTION, SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION UP TO NOW HAD ONLY IRREGULARLY INFORMED CSCE PARTICIPANTS ON THE COURSE OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. THE SOVIET UNION, HOWEVER, INTENDS TO CONTINUE THIS BILATERAL INFORMATION IN A MORE SYSTEMATIC MANNER, BECAUSE MULTILATERAL INFORMATION OF CSCE PARTICIPANTS BY MBFR PARTICIPANTS WOULD CREATE TOO MANY PROBLEMS. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIND A COMMON DENOMINATOR FOR SUCH MULTILATERAL INFORMATION. THE SOVIET UNION ALSO DOES NOT FAVOR AN INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE COMMITMENT.

5. THEREFORE, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FORESTALL A YUGOSLAVIAN INITIATIVE TO THIS EFFECT IN BELGRADE, 1977. NATO MUST, HOWEVER, BE CAREFUL NOT TO BEAR THE BLAME ALONE IF SUCH AN INITIATIVE IS TO BE COUNTERED. END FRG TEXT.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON REACTION TO THE FRG PAPER.
CASH

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